

# COLORADO SPRINGS 2020 CENSUS REPORT



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Colorado Springs Planning and Development  
Department

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# Colorado Springs

## 2020 Census Report

### INTRODUCTION

With the 2020 Census and 2015-2019 American Community Survey information now available at a local level, the Comprehensive Planning Division with the City of Colorado Springs has analyzed and mapped this information combined with data from other sources to take inventory of long-term trends and the opportunities for the city. Most of the data in the report is derived from American Community Survey because of the limited number of questions the Decennial Census asks. American Community Survey provides a statistical sample of the population, while the Decennial Census provides a complete count. More details on the differences between ACS and Census data can be found in the methodology section on page 27. The focus of this update is how the city's demography has changed from 2010 to 2020.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Colorado Springs population is growing, but the growth is slightly slowing while our share of the region is decreasing

Colorado Springs added 62,534 people between 2010 and 2020, or we grew by 15.0%. The previous growth rate between the 2000 and 2010 Census was 15.4%. The Metro Statistical Area (the MSA consists of El Paso County and Teller County) added 109,492 people between 2010 and 2020 accounting for a growth of 17%. The city's share of population in the MSA is declining. In 2010 it was 64.5%, and in 2020 it was 63.4%. (Data from Census).

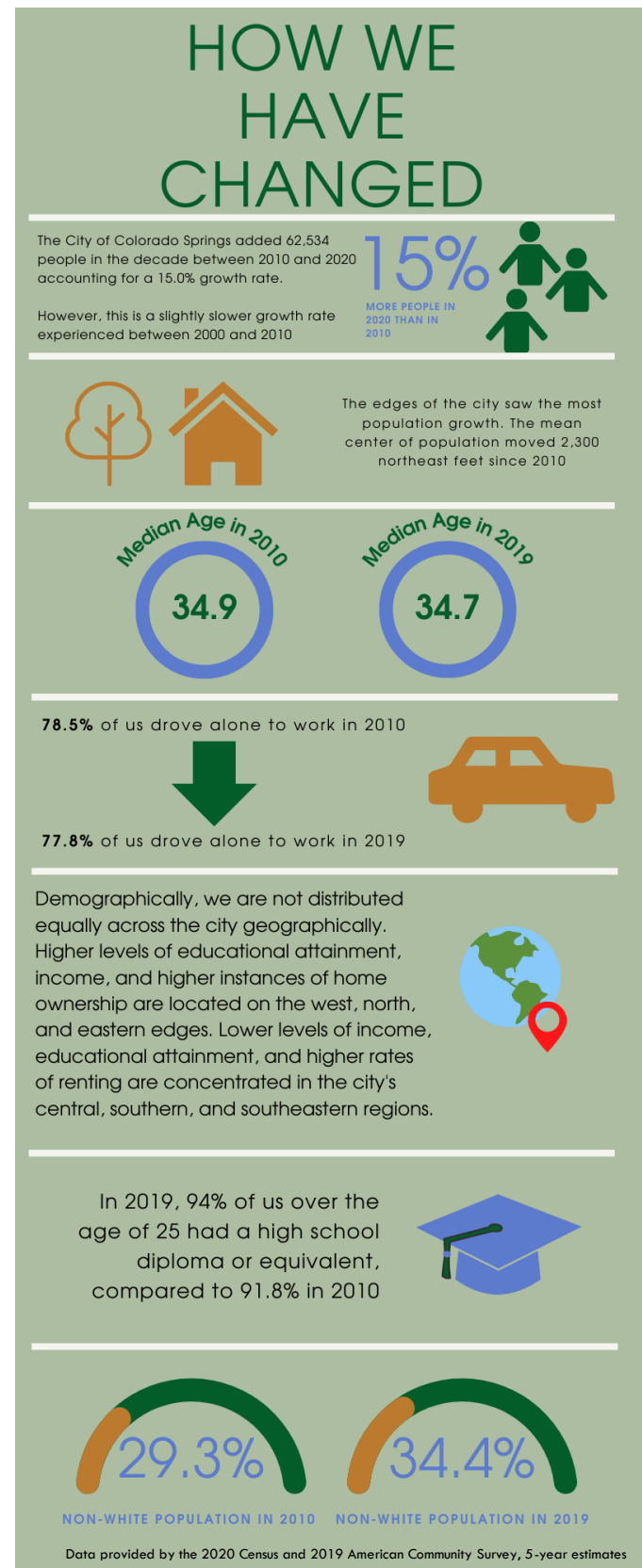


Figure 1

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
City population	135,060	214,914	281,140	360,890	416,427	478,961
MSA population	235,972	309,424	397,014	516,929	645,613	755,105
City's percent of MSA	57.2	69.5	70.8	69.8	64.5	63.4
El Paso County median age	23.5	26.8	30.2	33	34.1	34.2
City racial/ethnic percent	6.4	16.2	19	24.7	29.3	34.4

**Figure 2**

Data from American Community Survey and Decennial Census

### We are moving to the periphery

Many neighborhoods in the center of the city lost population, while neighborhoods on the city's periphery gained population. Between 2010 and 2020, the mean center of the population moved northeast roughly half a mile (2,300 feet). Since 1990, the mean center of the population has moved approximately three miles (16,200 feet) northeast. (Data from Census).



### We got slightly younger while on a trend of getting older

In 1970, the median age of Colorado Springs was 23.5. From 1970 to 2010, the median age increased to 34.9. However, the median age in 2019 was 34.7 which is slightly lower than the median age in 2010. The 2019 median age is still older than the El Paso County's (34.2 years), but it is younger than the state's (36.7 years), and the country's (38.1 years). (Data from American Community Survey and Census).



### Colorado Springs is more diverse

The non-white population in Colorado Springs rose from 29.3% in 2010 to 34.4% in 2019. Residents under the age of 18 reported higher percentages of non-white populations than residents over the age of 18. Non-white populations represented 47% of those under the age of 18 in 2019, which is an increase from 40.6% in 2010. In 2019, non-white residents over the age of 18 represented 31.2% of the populous, which was also an increase from 25.5% in 2010. Additionally, there was an increase in reporting of two or more races and ethnicities, of which the youth population had the largest share. (Data from American Community Survey).



### Geography matters

Demographically, we are not equally distributed across the city. Since 2010, population growth has mainly been concentrated in the north and east. The western quadrant of the city has older residents than the rest of the city. Median household income is generally higher on the city's western, northern, and eastern edges. This pattern is also seen in those over 25 who have obtained a Bachelor's



degree or higher. Household income levels are lower and poverty rates are higher in the central, southern, and southeastern sections. There is a similar distribution for those over 25 who have not graduated high school. Ownership of housing units generally follows the same geography as median household income, with tracts with higher income levels having higher rates of ownership, and tracts with lower income levels having higher rates of renting. (Data from American Community Survey and Census).

#### We mainly drive ourselves to work

In 2019, 77.8% of employed residents reported driving alone to work. 10.9% of employees carpooled to work, and 6.9% of employees reported working from home. Other modes of transportation (walking, public transportation, biking, and all other modes) accounted for 4.2% of trips made to work. (Data from American Community Survey).



#### There are many of us with limited financial means

In 2019 there were about 53,000 (11.7%) of us reported to be living in poverty. This is slightly higher than it was in 2010 (11.3%). (Data from American Community Survey and Census).



#### We are educated

Colorado Springs residents have higher educational attainment levels than the rest of the country. With 94% of us 25 or older having at least a high school diploma or equivalent, compared to 88.6% in the United States. Within those 25 or older, 40% of Colorado Springs residents have a Bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 33% of residents that are at least 25 in the United States. Residents of the entire state of Colorado reported that 91.8% of those age 25 and over had graduated high school or equivalent, and 41% had a Bachelor's degree or higher. In Colorado Springs, there were 6.1% of those 25 and older that reported not having a high school diploma or equivalent which is lower than the United States (11.4%). (Data from American Community Survey).





## KEY TAKEAWAYS

The population of Colorado Springs grew over the last ten years, but the data suggests that the growth has slightly slowed. Overall, the city's total share of the MSA has declined.

The edges of the city continue to be popular sites for population growth.

Almost 17% of the city's population is between the ages of 20 and 29. This may have caused the median age to decrease.



A smaller percentage of us rely on driving alone as our transportation to work than in 2010, but we still heavily favor it. The percentage of us that drive alone to work in Colorado Springs is higher than the National percentage. Strengthening infrastructure to support alternate forms of transportation would help to lower the monetary and time cost for commuters looking to reduce their automobile reliance while making their trips safer.

Our demographics are unequally distributed across the city with higher income levels, higher educational attainment, and higher rates of homeownership occurring on the city's western, northern, and eastern edges. Conversely, higher poverty rates, lower educational attainment, and higher rates of renting occurring in the southern and southeastern regions of the city.

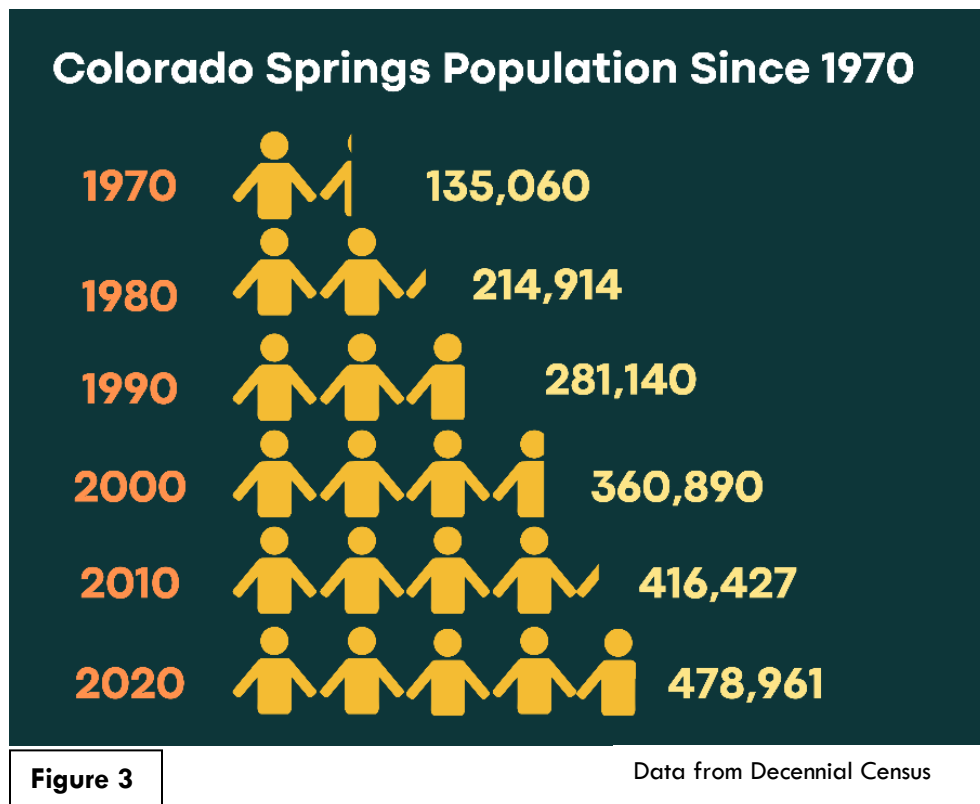
We are educated and becoming more diverse.

Lastly, affordable housing is something the city and state is seemingly lacking. With our median gross rent higher than the country's median gross rent, Colorado Springs is becoming/has become an expensive place to live.

## TOTAL POPULATION GROWTH

According to the available Census data, The City of Colorado Springs had a total population of 478,961 in 2020 which is an additional 62,534 people accounting for about a 15% growth rate from 2010 when the population was 416,427. This is a higher growth rate than what the country experienced. It is slightly higher than the State of Colorado's growth rate, and it is lower than El Paso County's growth rate.

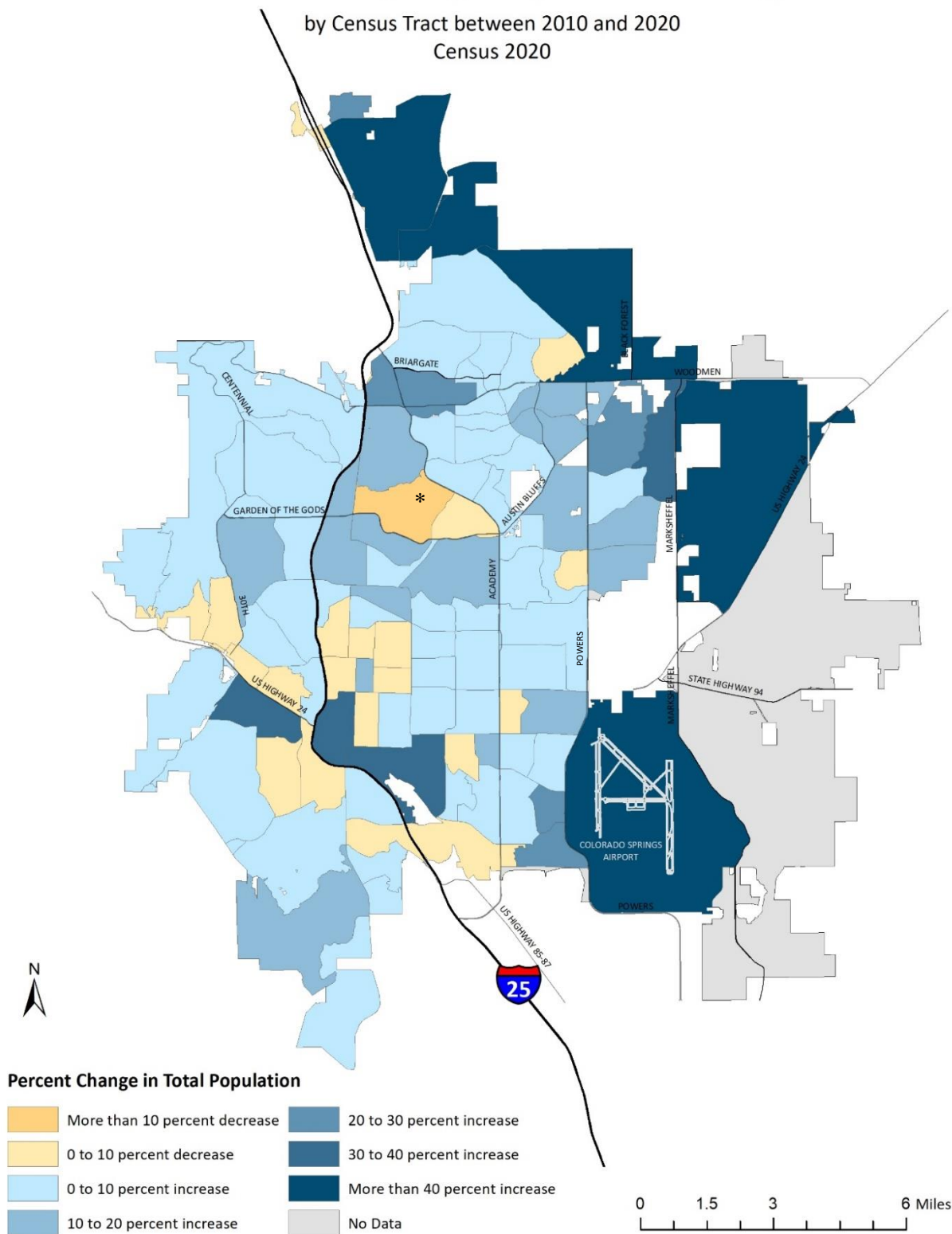
The north and eastern parts of the city experienced the most growth from 2010 to 2020 with neighborhoods on the periphery of Colorado Springs along with the downtown area growing the most. (refer to Map 1).





# Colorado Springs Population Change

by Census Tract between 2010 and 2020  
Census 2020



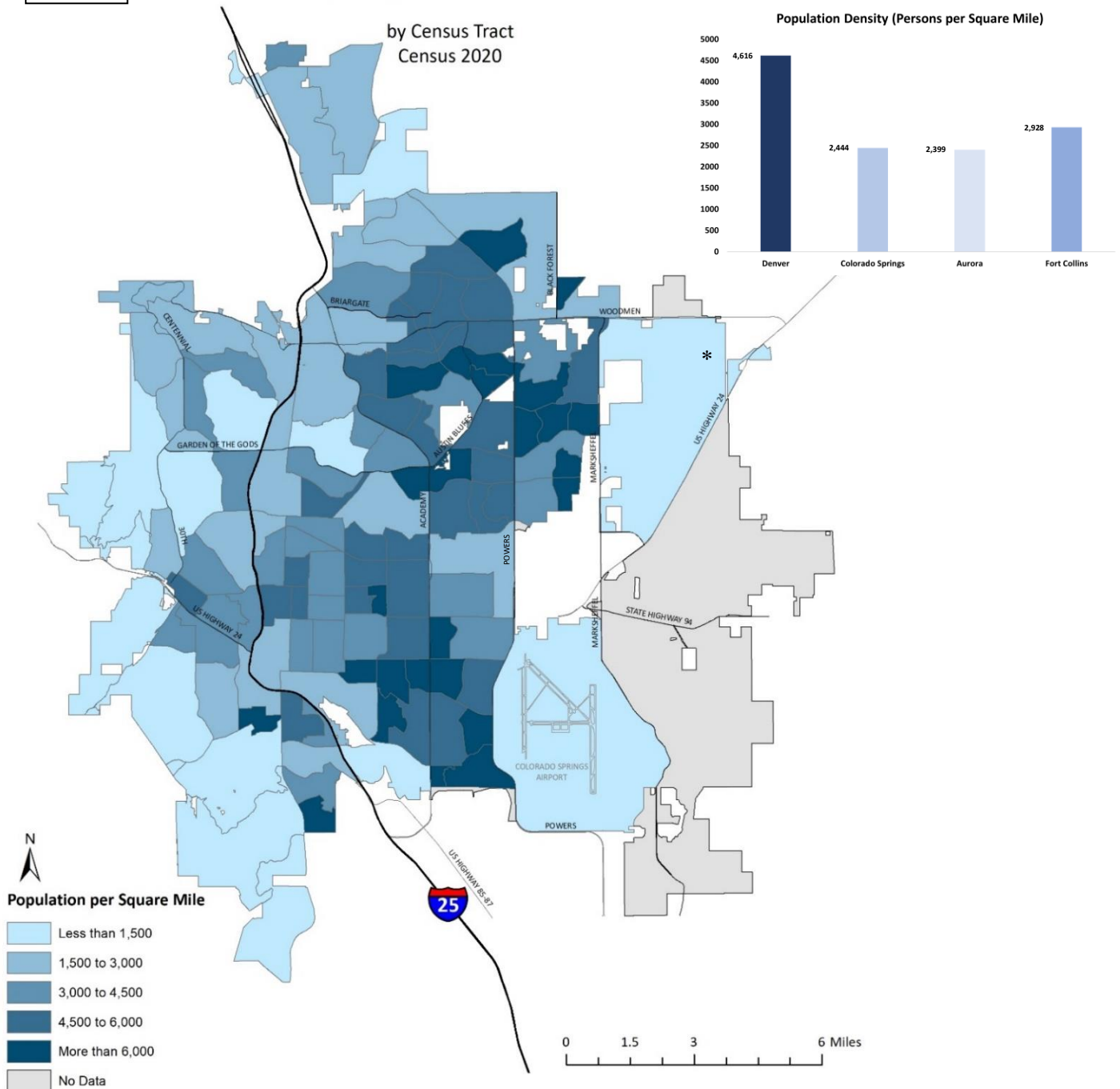
\*This Census Tract shows a more than 10 percent decrease in population between 2010 and 2020. This could be due to multiple factors.

## POPULATION DENSITY

The population density of Colorado Springs in 2020 was 2,444 people per square mile. This is an increase from 2010 (2,238 people per square mile) which was also an increase from 2000 (1,943 people per square mile). The tracts with higher population density are moving from a more central location in the city to the periphery. This loosely aligns with the city's population growth on the east and north ends of town (refer to Map 2).

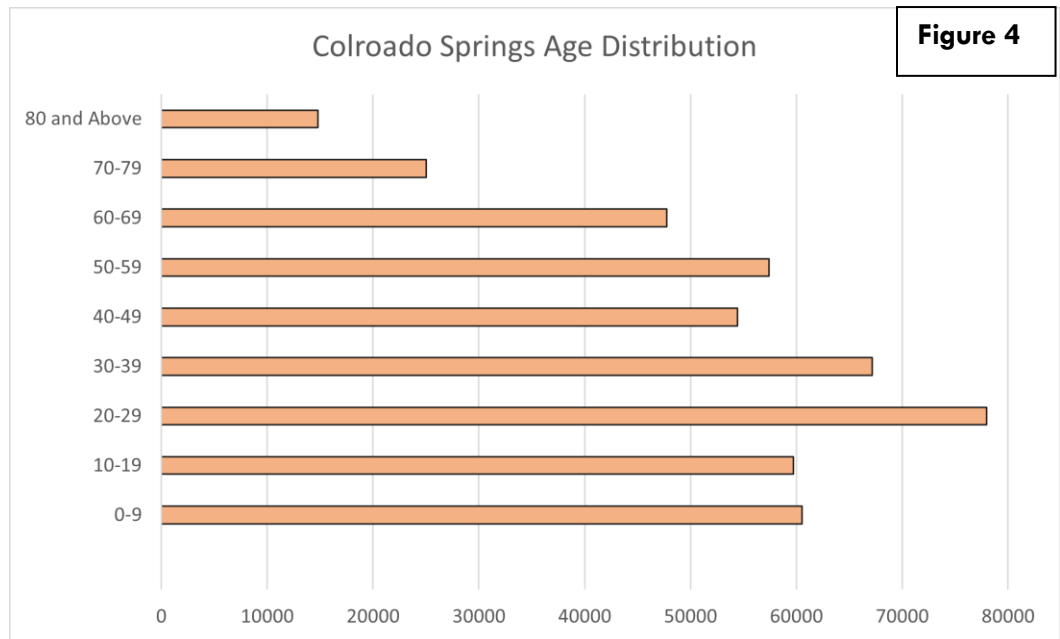
**Map 2**

### Colorado Springs Population Density



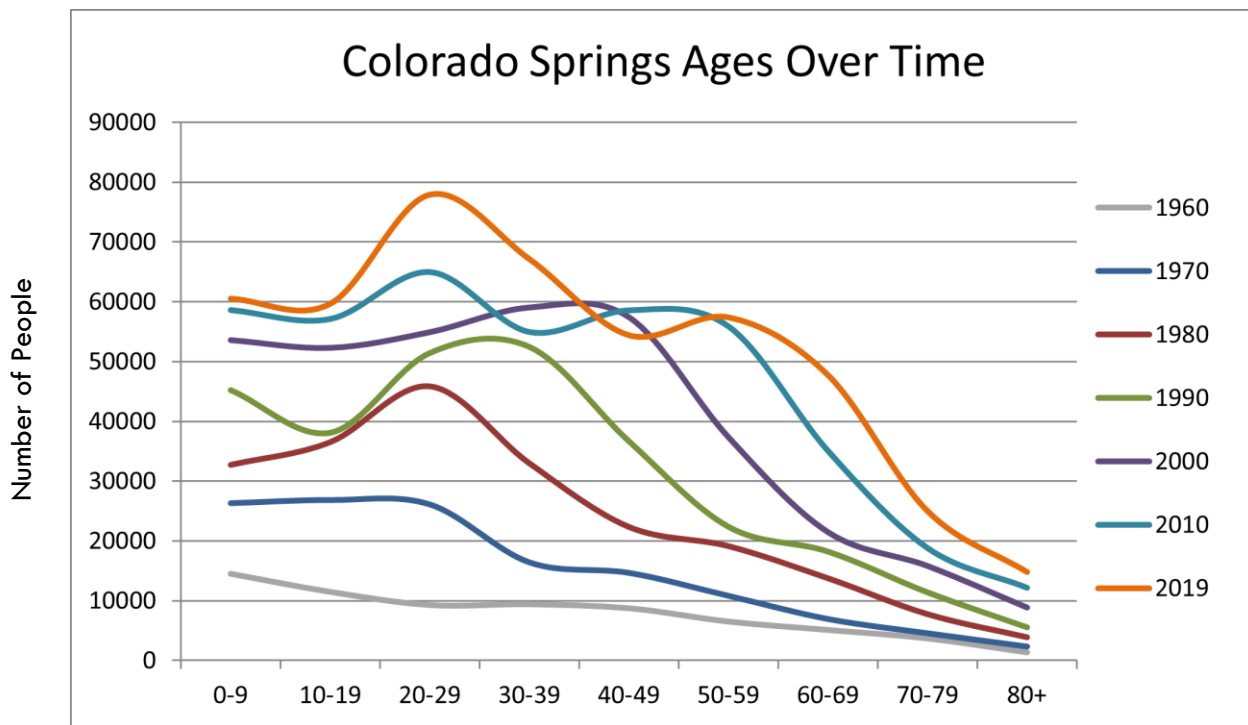
## AGE

Age information from the 2020 Census is still limited as it is still in the process of being released. Using American Community Survey data to supplement age information, we can look at the different age cohorts for the city, county, and state. Colorado Springs' largest age cohort was the 20 to 29 year-old group, representing 16.8% of the population of Colorado Springs (see figure 4).



Data from American Community Survey and Decennial Census

In 2010, 20 to 29 year-olds was also the largest age group in the city accounting for 15.6% of the total city population. In 2019, the 20 to 29 year-old cohort in El Paso County was also the largest, but in Colorado, the 30 to 39 year-old group was the largest. The median age of Colorado Springs in 2019 was 34.7 which is lower than it was in 2010 (34.9).



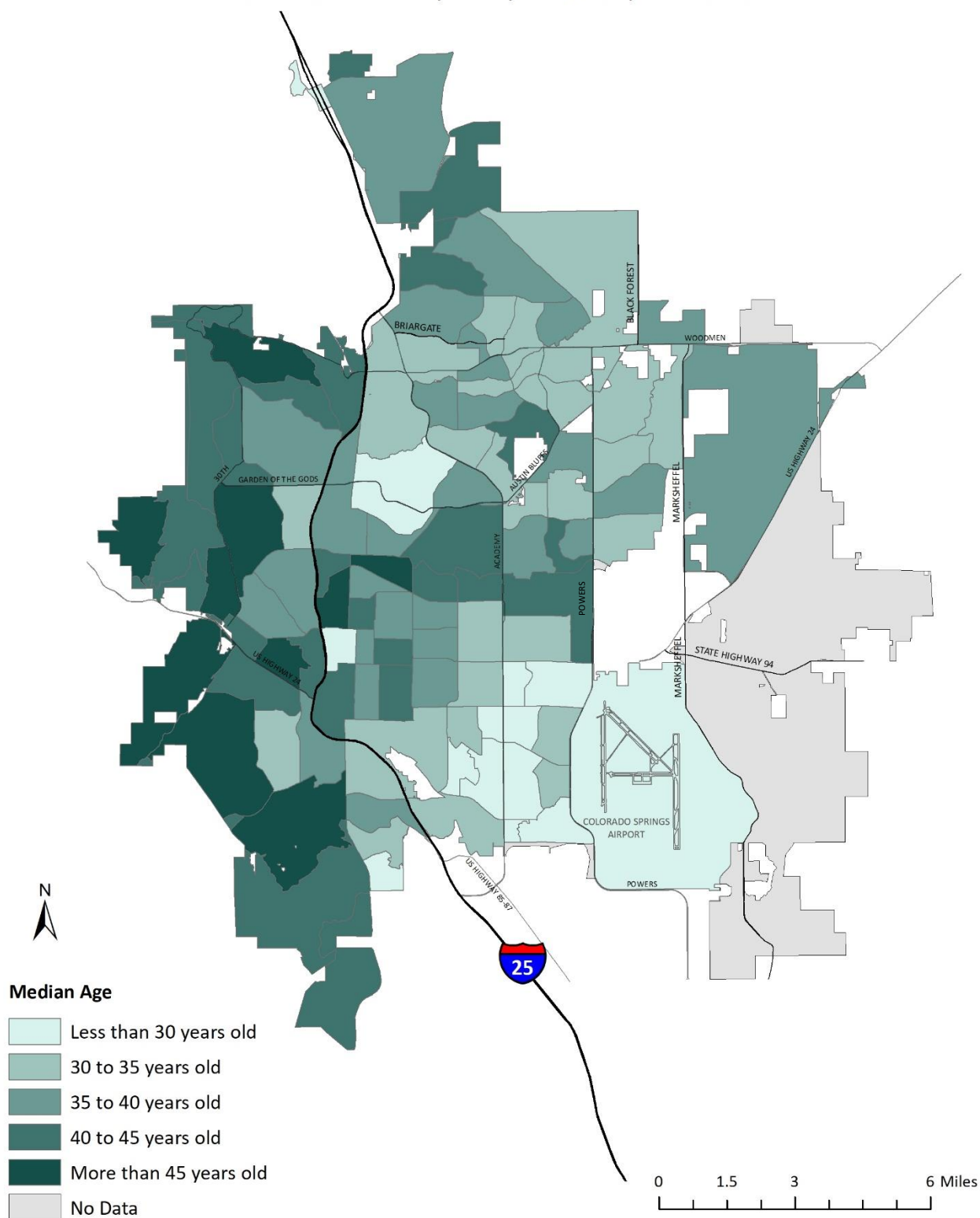
**Figure 5**

Age Groups

Data from American Community Survey and Decennial Census

# Colorado Springs Median Age

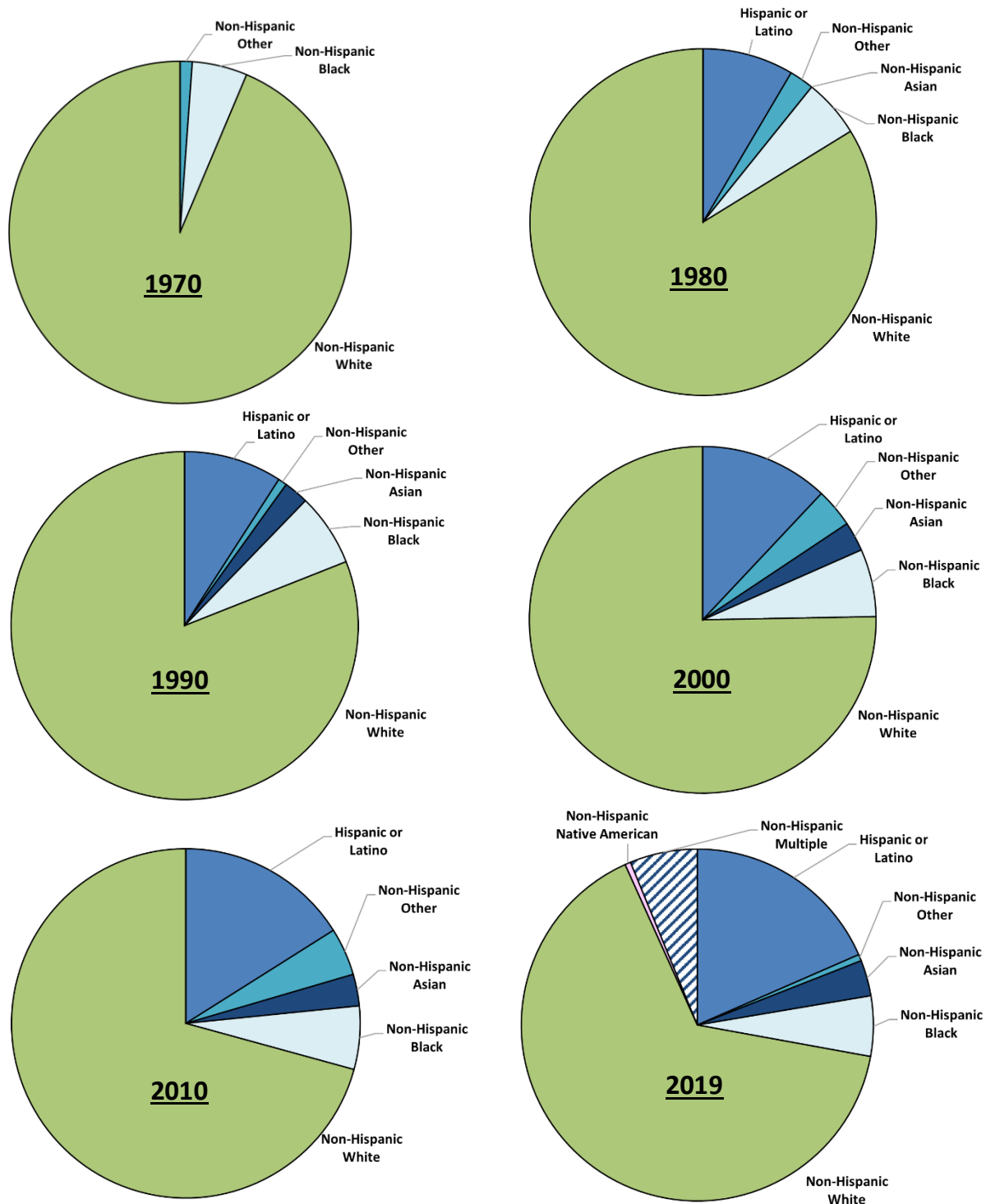
by Census Tract  
American Community Survey 2019, five-year estimates



# DIVERSITY

Colorado Springs is more diverse than it was in 2010. An increasing number of residents (164,828) accounting for 34.4% of the city's total population identified with a race and ethnicity other than Non-Hispanic white. This is an increase from all preceding decades (see Figure 6). The Diversity Index is a measure of probability that two people who were chosen at random would be of a different race and ethnicity from each other on a scale of 0 to 100 with 0 representing no diversity. Colorado Springs received a diversity index of 58 which is higher than the State of Colorado's (53.2) and less than the country's (61).

Figure 6



## INCOME AND EQUALITY

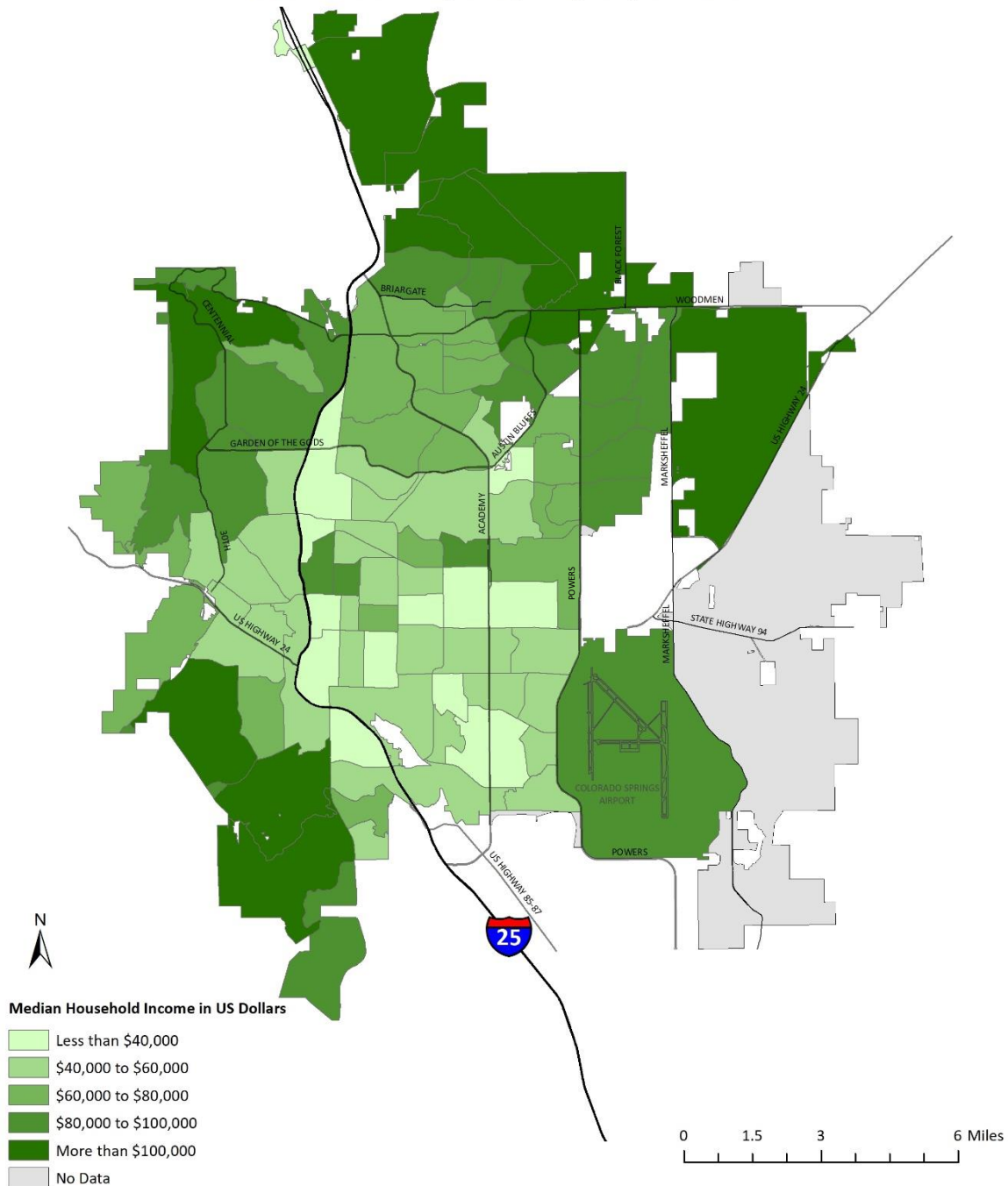
In 2019 the median household income for Colorado Springs was \$64,712. This is lower than El Paso County's (\$68,779) and Colorado's (\$72,331) and it is higher than the country's (\$62,843). The far north, east, and west sides of the city had the highest median household incomes by Census Tract. See Map 4.

Map 4

### Colorado Springs Median Household Income

by Census Tract

American Community Survey 2019, five-year estimates



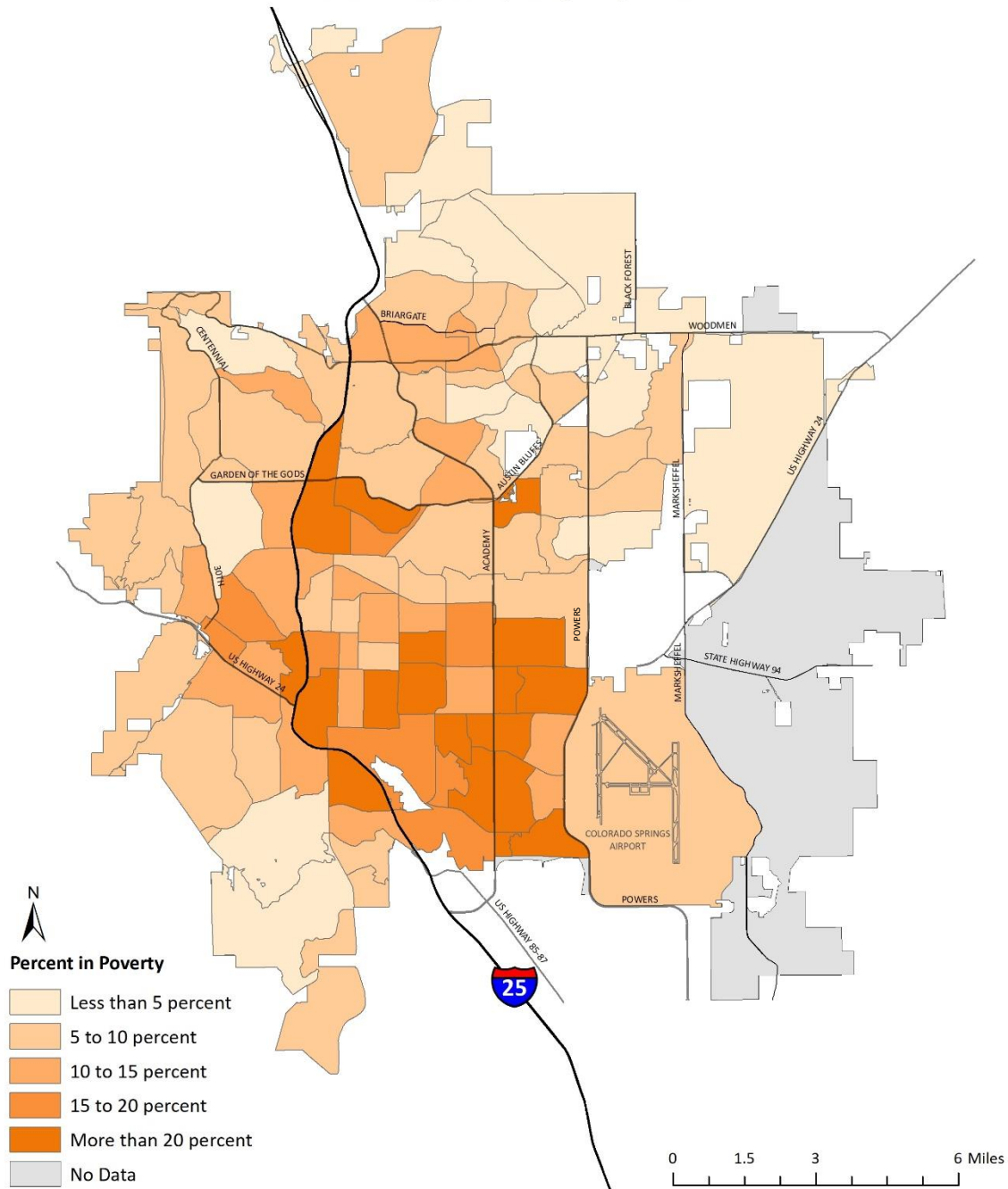


Poverty status throughout the city roughly mirrored income distribution. According to the United States Census website, an individual is considered to be living in poverty if their or their family's total income is less than the national poverty threshold which is established annually. Thresholds vary by the size and age of the family. The poverty rate in Colorado Springs was 11.7% accounting for 53,223 persons living in poverty. This poverty rate is higher than Colorado's rate (10.3%) and lower than the United States' poverty rate (13.4%). See Map 5.

Map 5

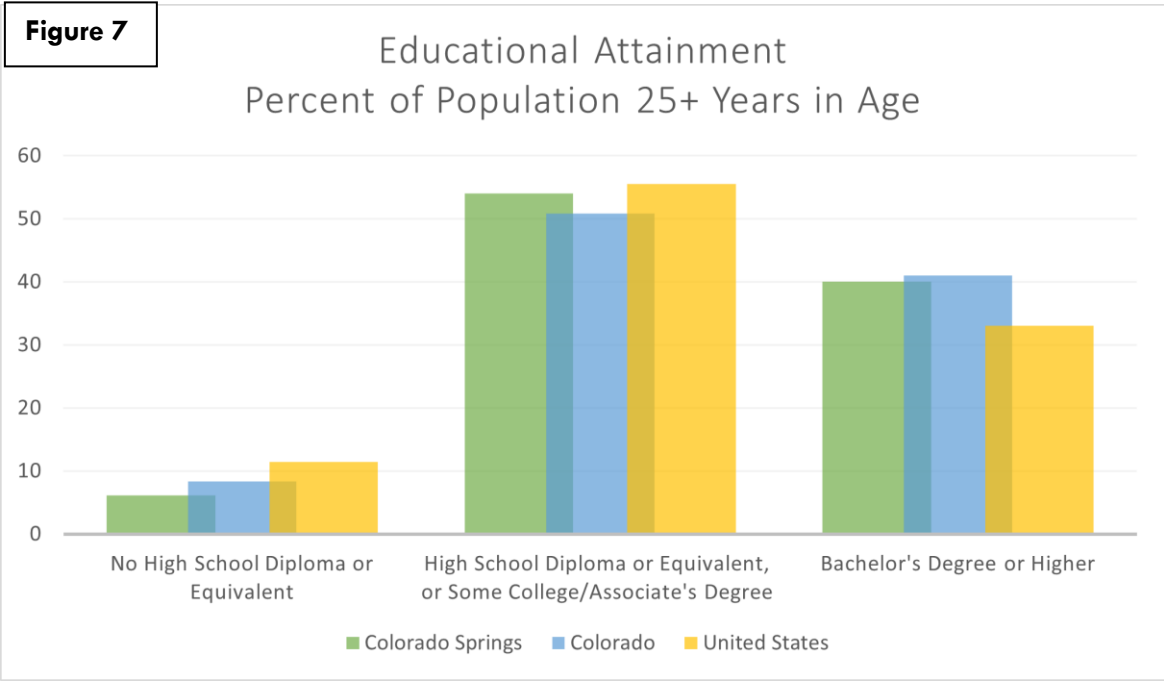
## Colorado Springs Poverty Status

by Census Tract  
American Community Survey 2019, five-year estimates



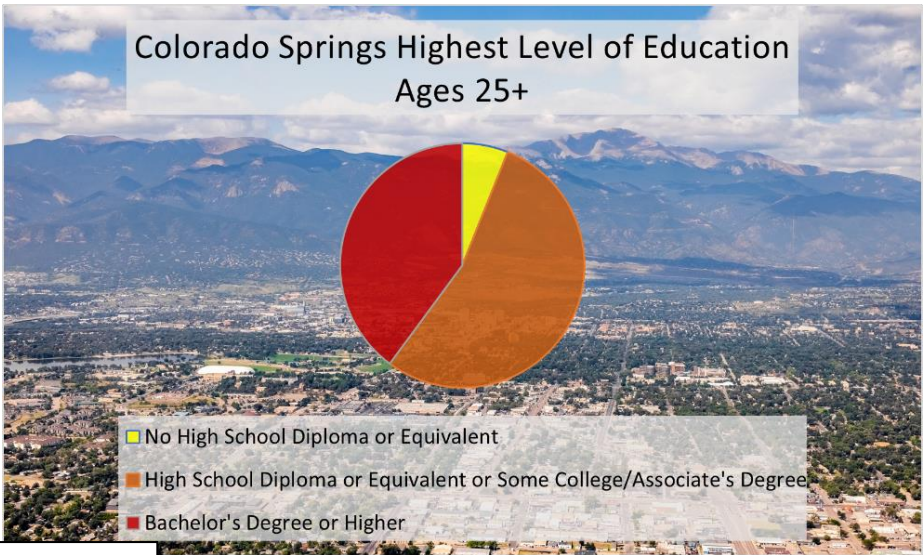
# EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Colorado Springs has a higher percentage of high school graduates than the State of Colorado, a higher percentage of adults ages 25 and older with at least a Bachelor’s degree than the United States, and a lower rate of people 25 years of age and older without a high school diploma or equivalent than both the State of Colorado and the United States.



Data from 2015-2019 American Community Survey

The largest academic cohort for Colorado Springs in 2019 was those age 25 or older that had graduated high school (or equivalent) or attended higher education without graduating with a Bachelor’s degree, this cohort accounted for 54% of the population. This is higher than it was in 2009 (33.9%). The percent of population representing those 25 or older who had completed at least a Bachelor’s degree as their highest educational attainment was 40%. The percent of the population that had no high school diploma or equivalent was 6%. Maps 6 and 7 display the distribution of educational attainment throughout Colorado Springs by Census Tract.

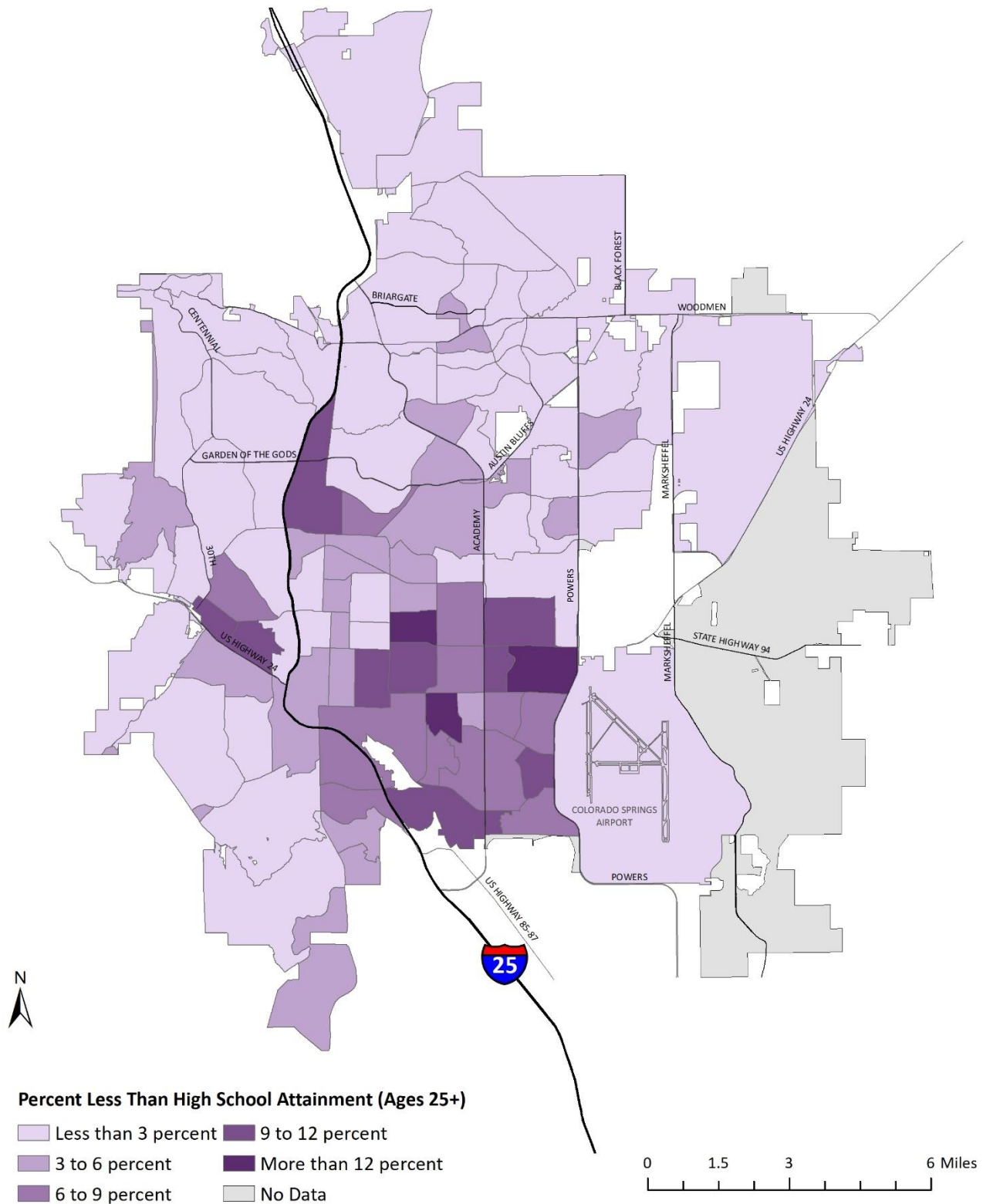


**Figure 8**

Data from 2015-2019 American Community Survey

# Colorado Springs Less Than High School Attainment

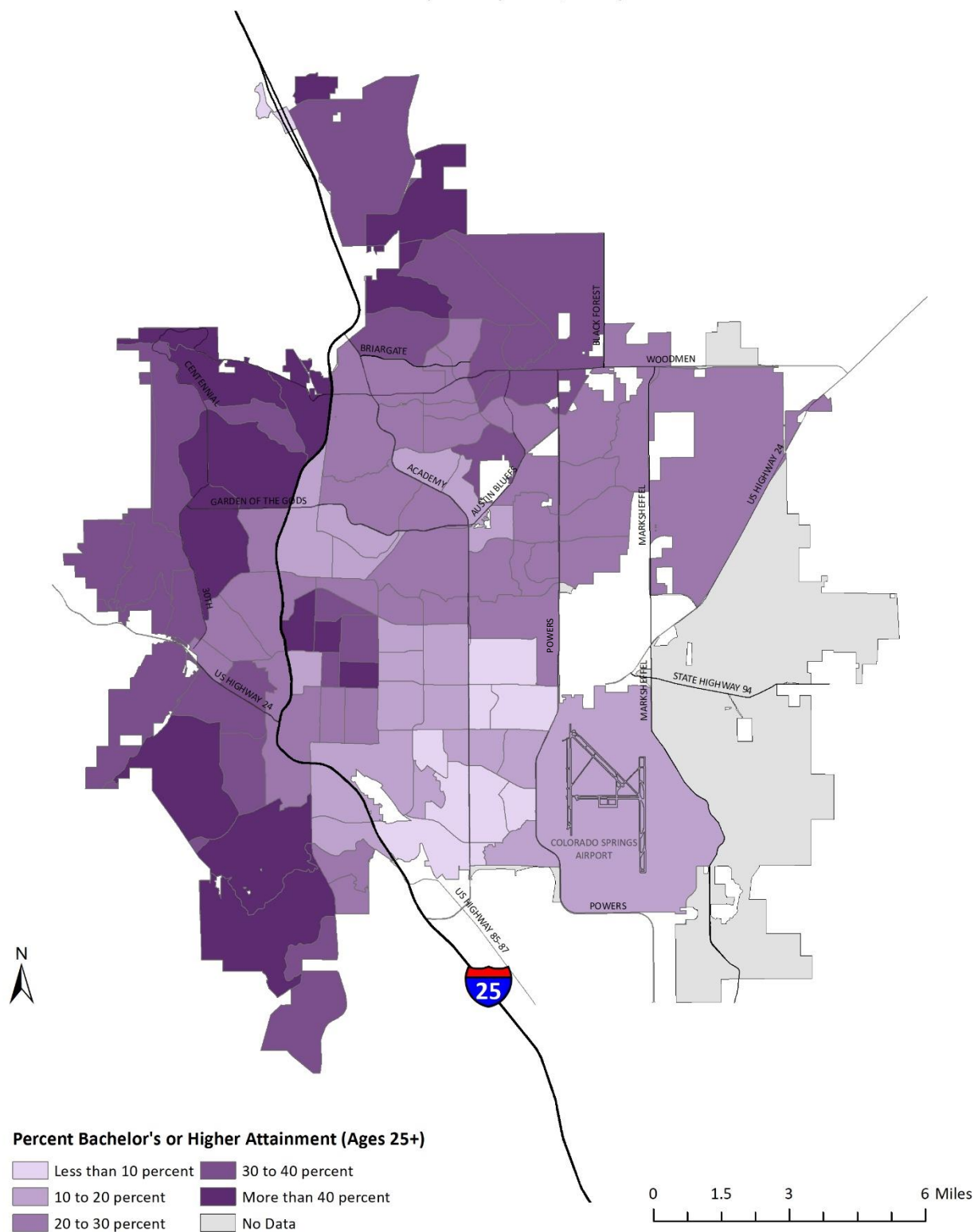
by Census Tract  
American Community Survey 2019, five-year estimates



Map 7

## Colorado Springs Bachelor's Degree or Higher Educational Attainment

by Census Tract  
American Community Survey 2019, five-year estimates





## RENTED AND OWNED HOUSING TENURE

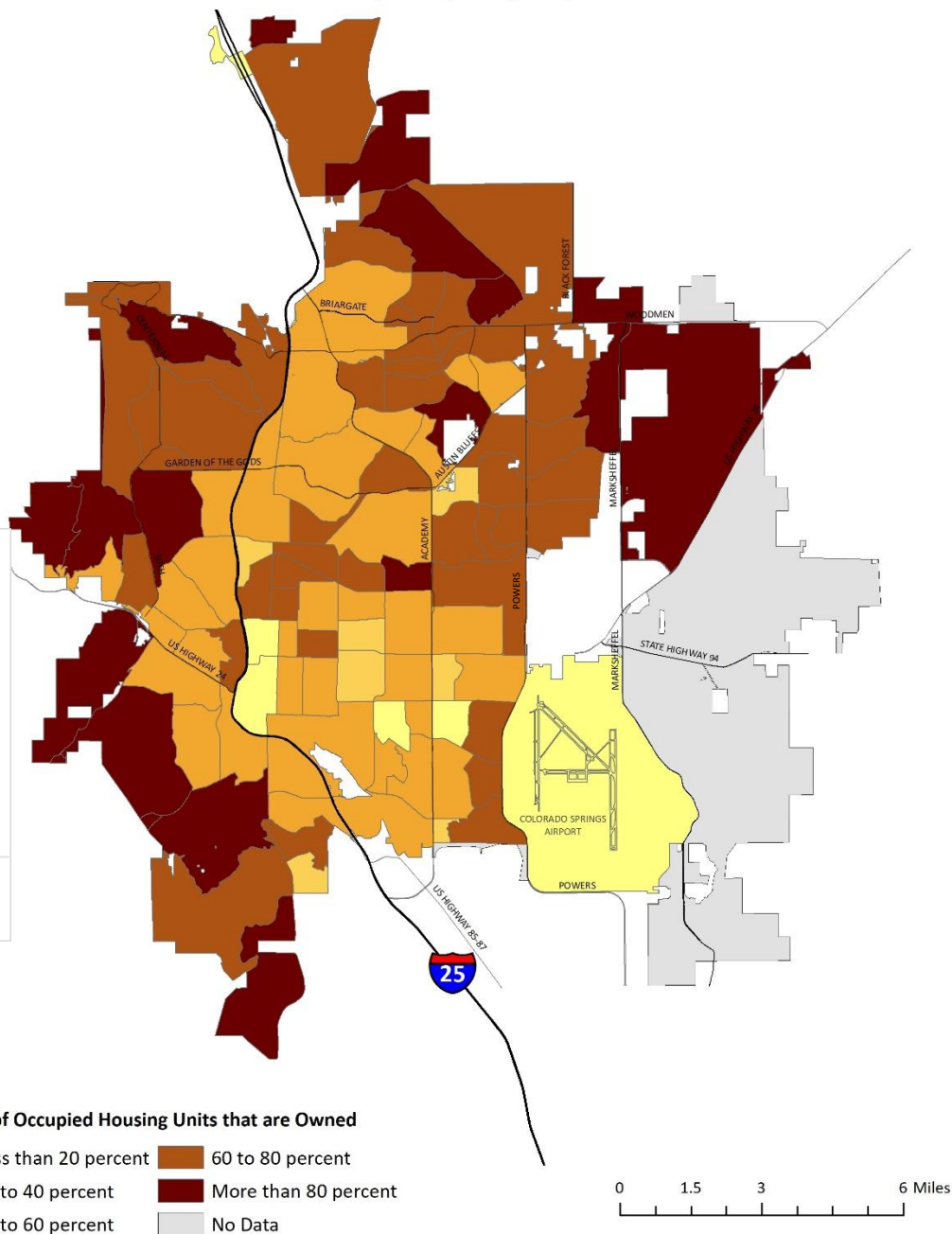
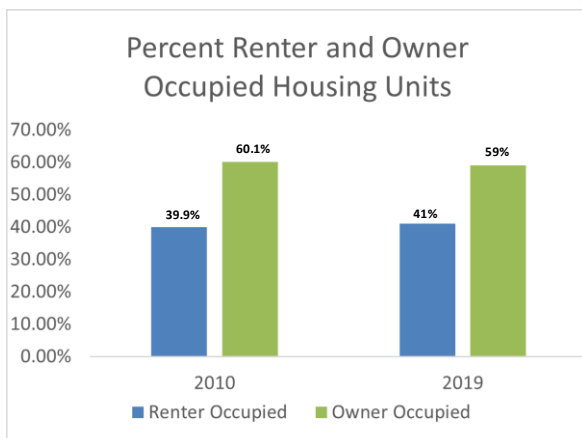
According to American Community Survey data, Colorado Springs had 191,476 housing units in 2019, of which, 181,478 housing units were occupied. Of the occupied housing units, 107,158 (59%) housing units were owned, and 74,320 (41%) housing units were rented. At the state level, the State of Colorado reported that 65.2% of occupied housing units were owned, and 34.8% of were rented. At the national level, the United States reported that 65.9% of occupied housing units were owned and 34.1% were rented.

Using data from the 2010 Census, it is determined that Colorado Springs had 179,607 housing units, of which 167,788 were occupied. Of the occupied housing units, 100,856 (60.1%) were owned and 66,932 (39.9%) were rented. Map 8 shows the percent of occupied housing units that were owned in 2019 by Census Tract.

**Map 8**

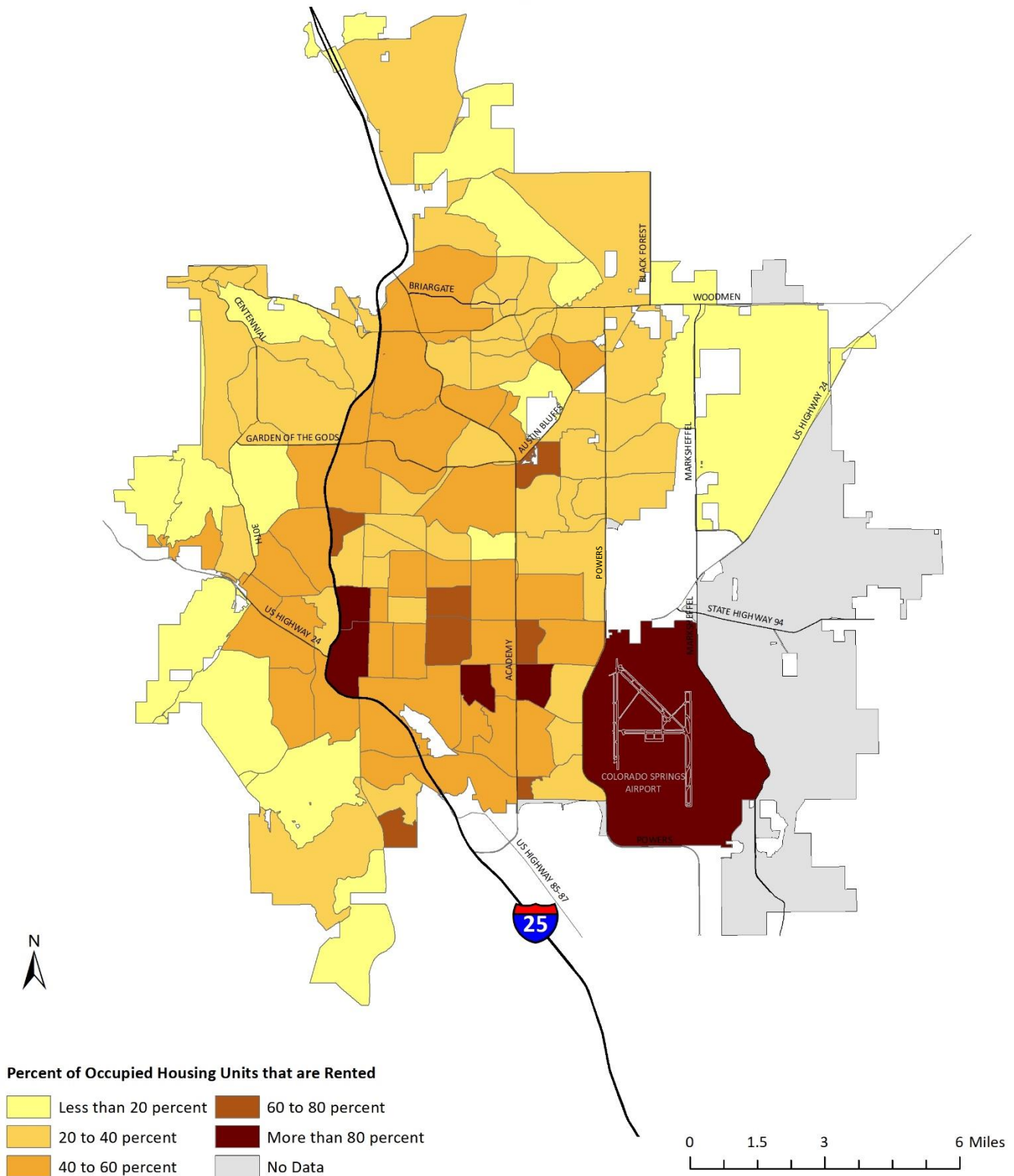
### Colorado Springs Owned Housing Units

by Census Tract  
American Community Survey 2019, five-year estimates



# Colorado Springs Rented Housing Units

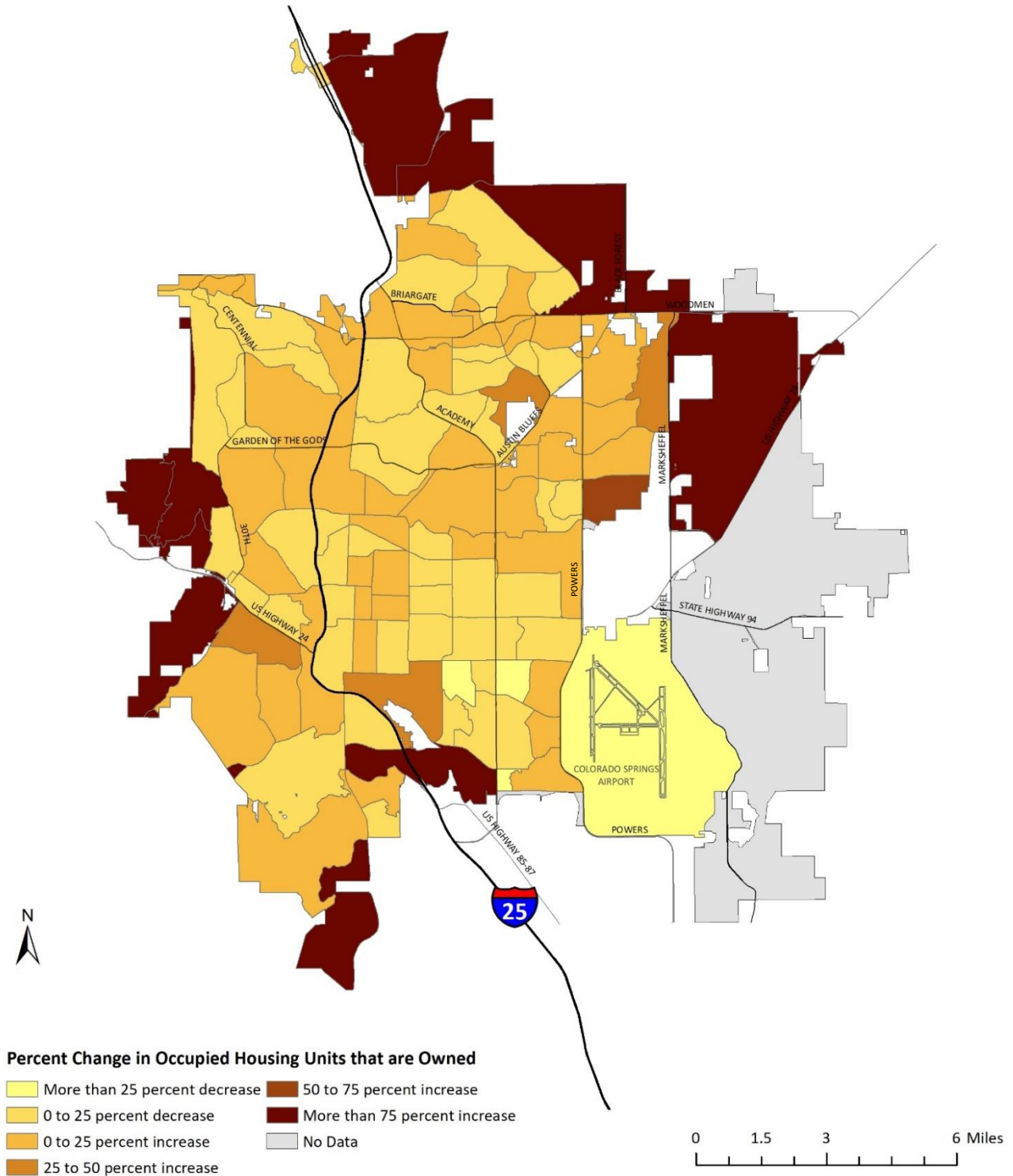
by Census Tract  
American Community Survey 2019, five-year estimates





# Colorado Springs Owned Housing Units Change

by Census Tract between 2010 and 2019  
Census 2010 and American Community Survey 2019, 5-year estimates

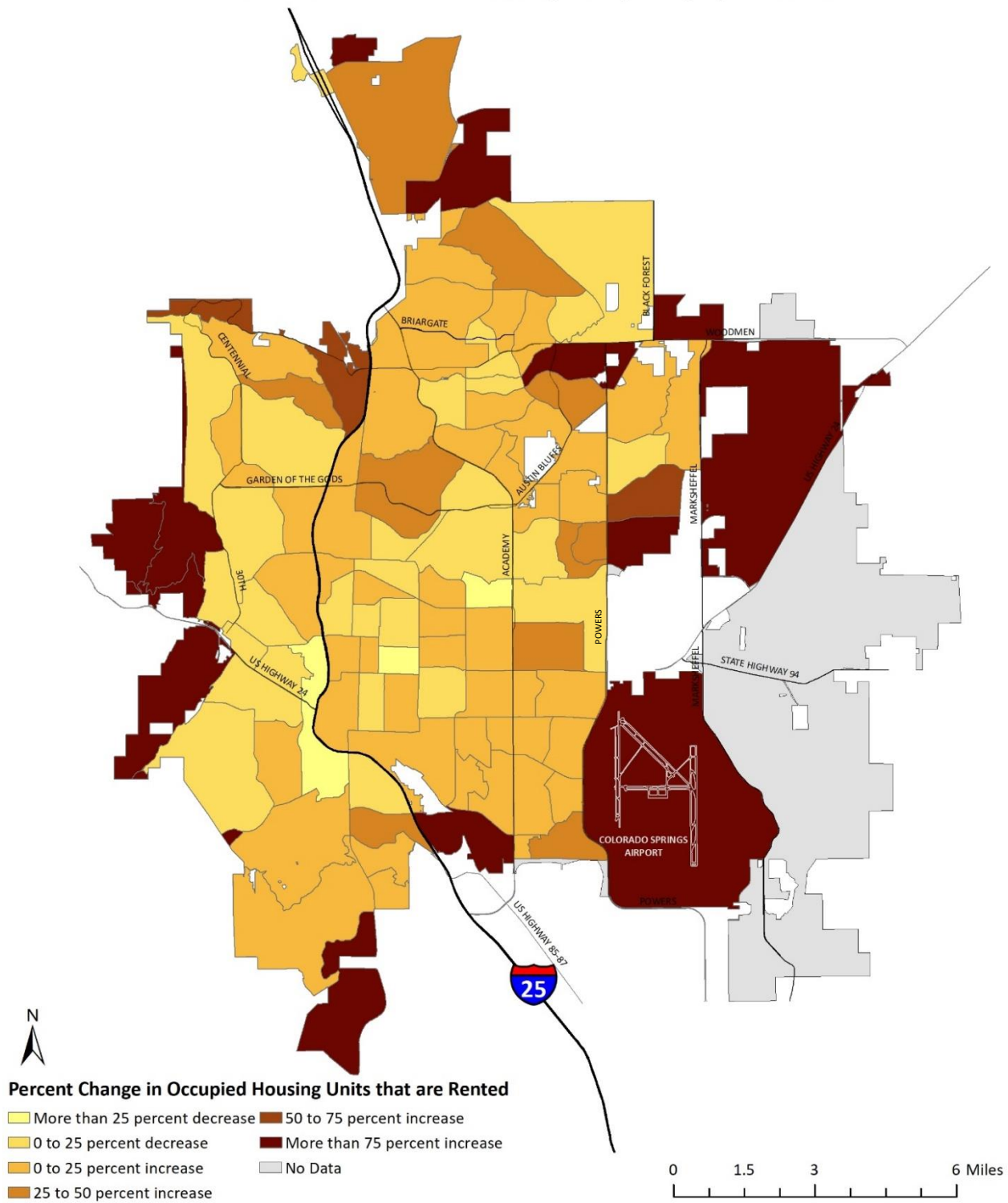


Map 10 shows the percent of added housing units between 2010 and 2019 that were occupied and owned.

Map 11

## Colorado Springs Rented Housing Units Change

by Census Tract between 2010 and 2019  
Census 2010 and American Community Survey 2019, 5-year estimates



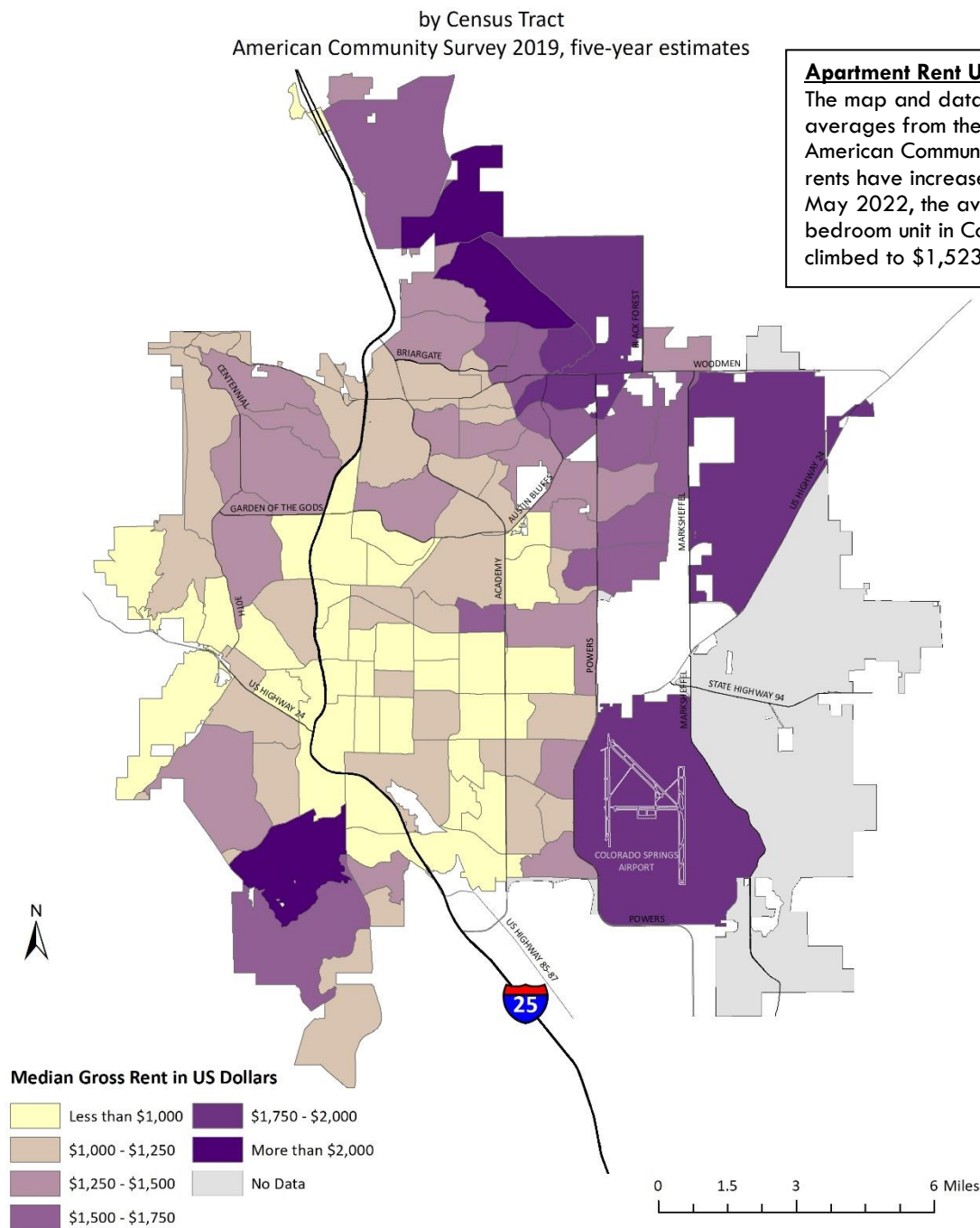
Map 11 shows the percent of added housing units between 2010 and 2019 that were occupied and rented.

## HOUSING COSTS

In 2019, the median gross rent in Colorado Springs was \$1,131 per month. This was lower than the median gross rent for El Paso County at \$1,174 and the State of Colorado at \$1,271. It was higher than the median gross rent of the United States at \$1,062. Map 14 shows the median gross rent of Colorado Springs by Census Tract. In general, the city's northern, eastern, south-western, and north-western edges had higher median gross rents.

Map 12

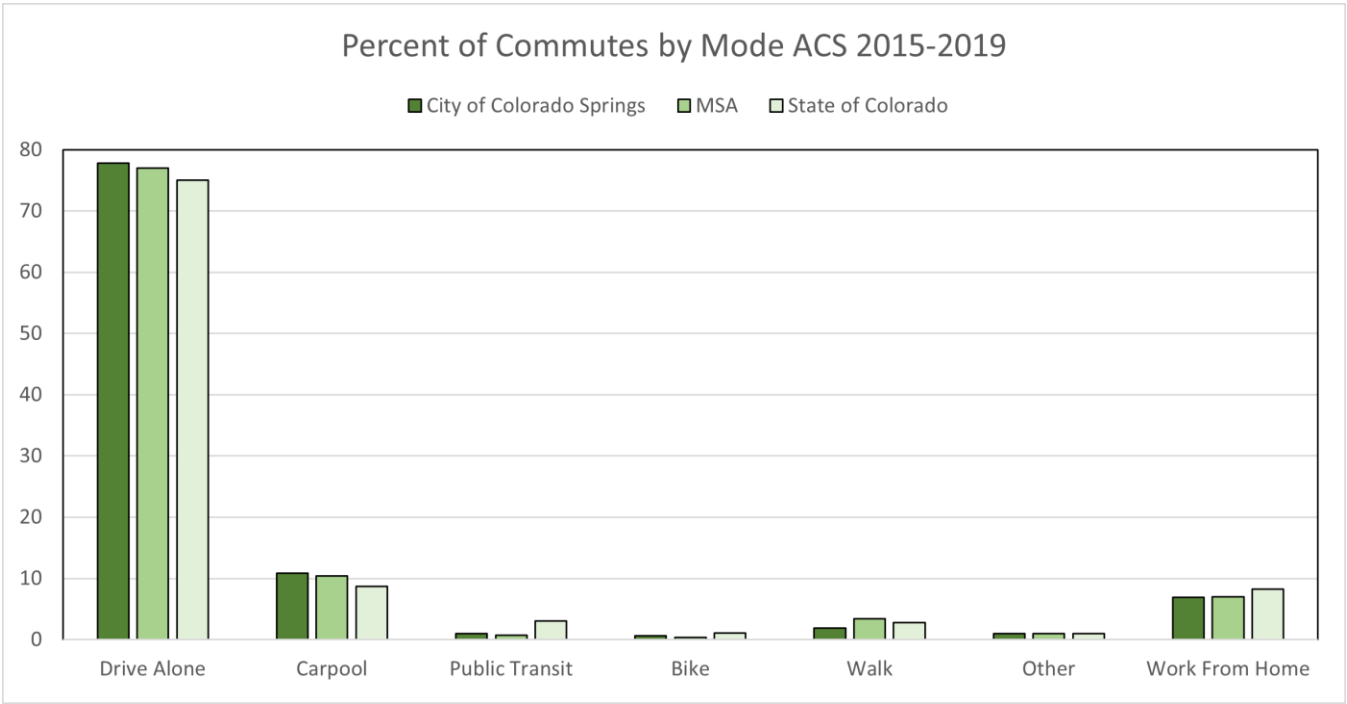
### Colorado Springs Monthly Median Gross Rent



# TRANSPORTATION MODES

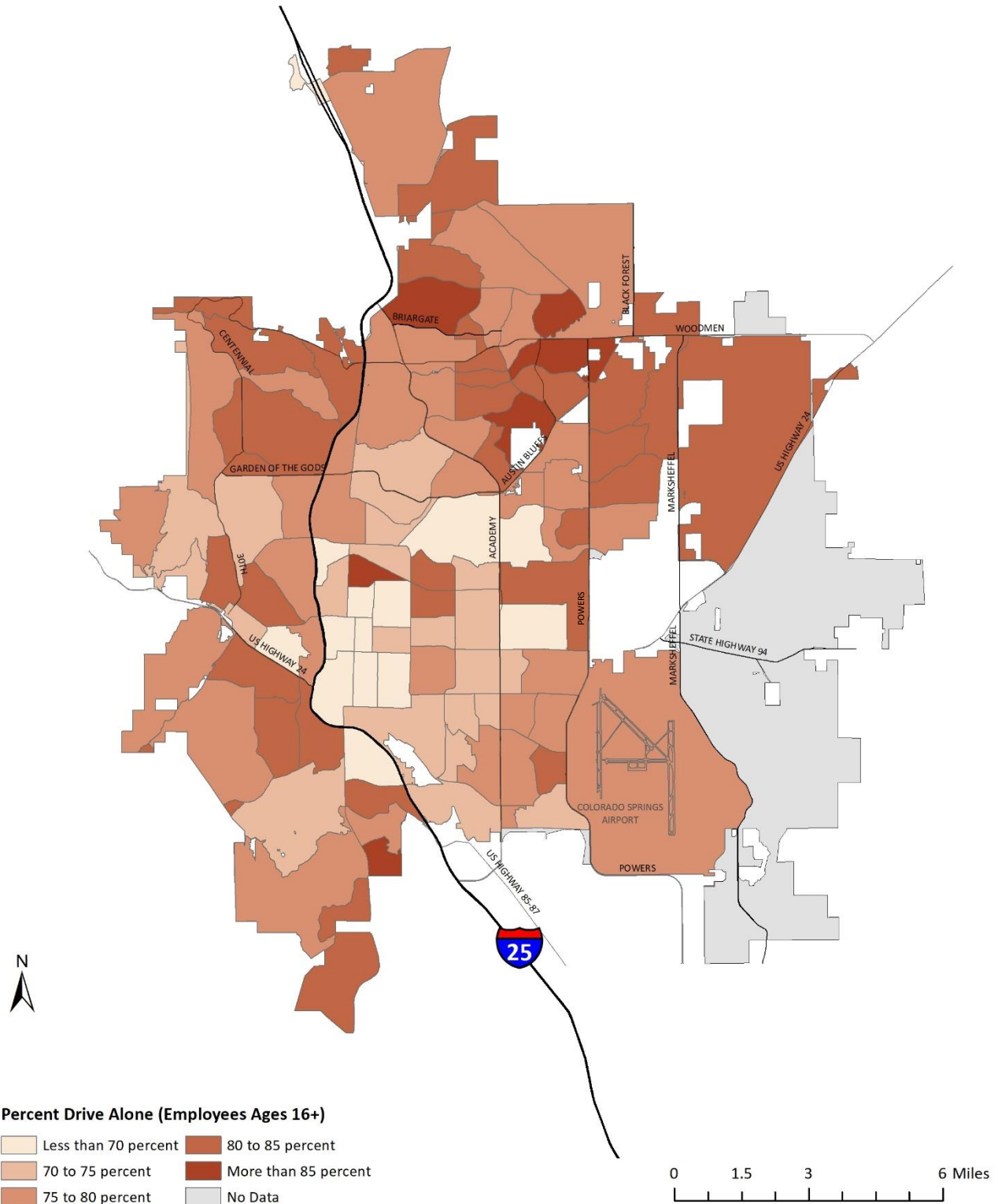
Driving to work alone was the most common mode of transportation for employees in Colorado Springs in 2019 which represented 77.8% of all trips to work. This is reduced from 2009 when driving alone accounted for 78.5% of all trips. It is also higher than the national percentage of 75.9%. The next preferred mode in 2019 was carpooling (10.9%), followed by walking (1.8%), public transit (.9%), other forms of transportation (.9%), and biking (.6%). In 2009 carpooling represented 10%; walking represented 2.7%; public transit represented 1.6%; other forms of transportation represented 1.1%; and bicycling represented .8%. The percentage of workers who worked from home in 2019 was 6.9% which is higher than it was in 2009 at 5.3%.

Figure 9



# Colorado Springs Driving Alone as Mode to Work

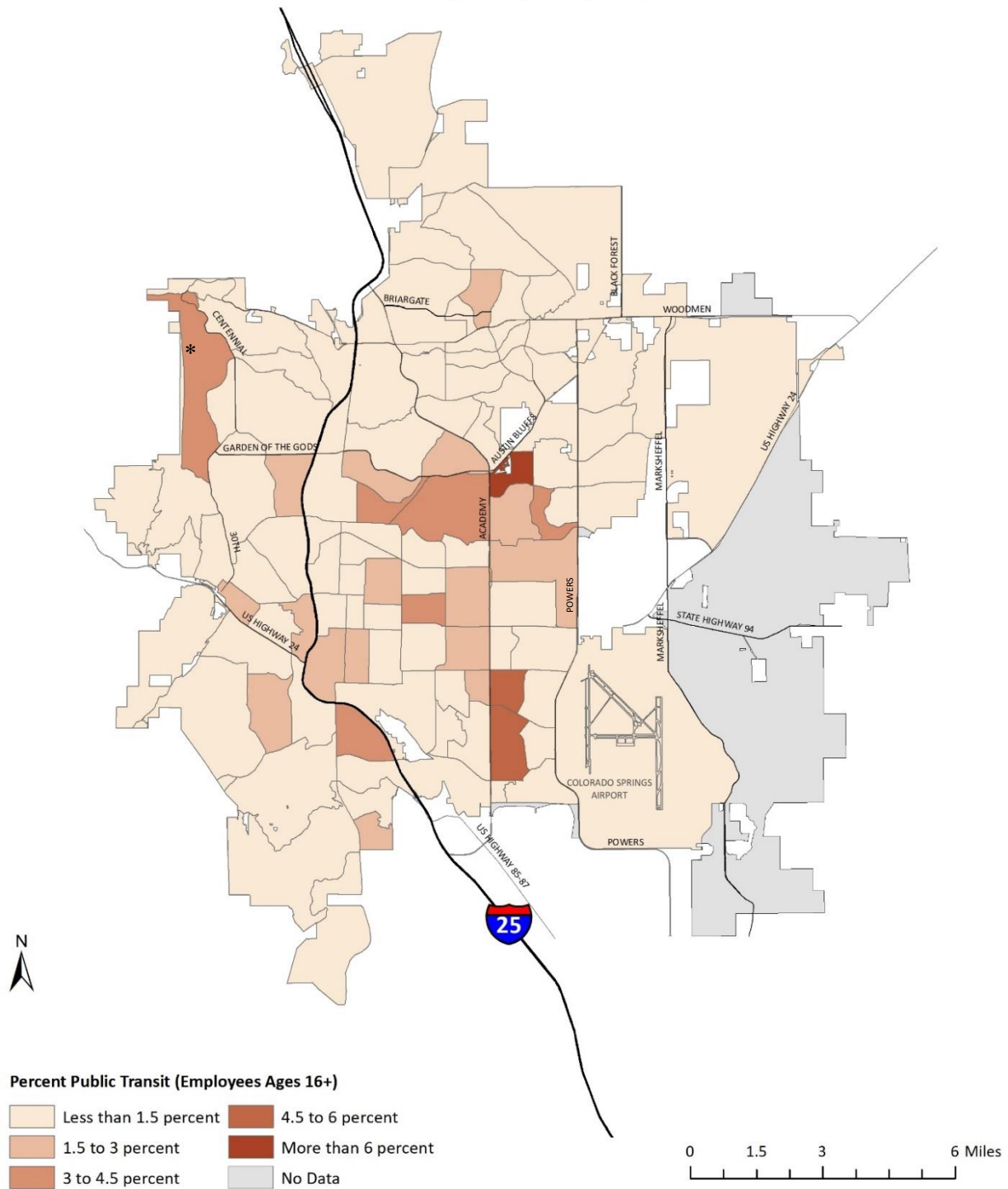
by Census Tract  
American Community Survey 2019, five-year estimates





# Colorado Springs Public Transit as Mode to Work

by Census Tract  
American Community Survey 2019, five-year estimates

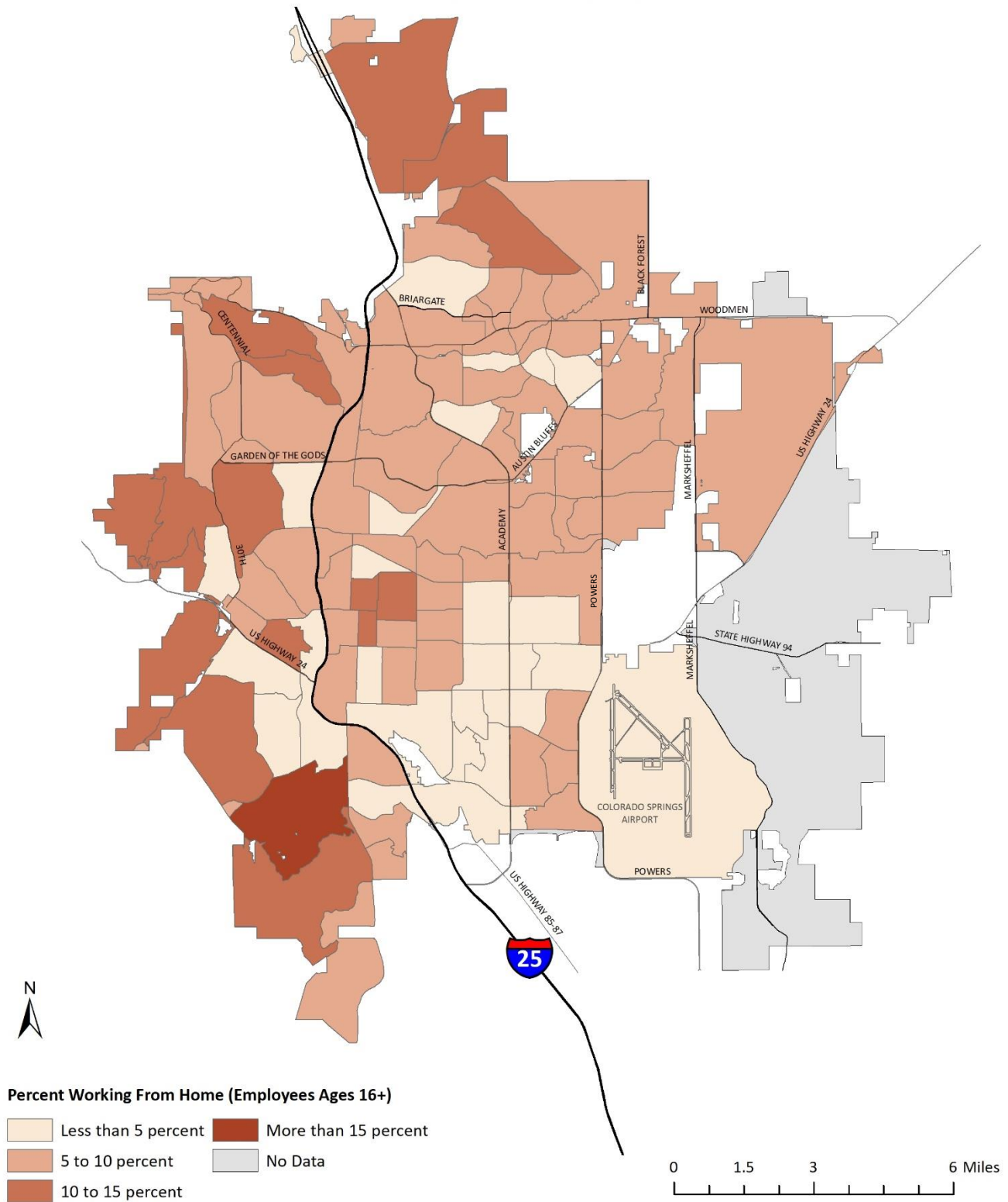


\*This Census Tract shows more than 3 percent of the working population using public transportation to commute to work. This may be due to the survey-nature of ACS data and may not be representative of the whole Census Tract.



# Colorado Springs Working From Home

by Census Tract  
American Community Survey 2019, five-year estimates



## METHODOLOGY

The Decennial Census assesses every individual and household across the entire population, determining information such as age, sex, race and ethnicity, and household type. The Census is limited by law regarding the information surveyed to all households and residents. Because of these limitations, The Census Bureau conducts the American Community Survey (ACS) which surveyed more detailed demographic data from a cross-section of the population. For example, this includes employee transportation mode, median household



income, and poverty status. The ACS tends to contain a larger margin of error than the Decennial Census, particularly when assessing a small geography or population. The Decennial Census offers a complete count, while the American Community Survey provides estimates. This demographic update uses 2020 Census data when possible because it is currently the most up-to-date data as of February 2022, and it contains a smaller margin of error than the most recent ACS data. When Census data is unavailable, this report relies on the most recent ACS data which is a four-year estimate from 2015-2019. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, Census data is limited and not all of the data has been released. Due to this, the report also relies on ACS data to fill in the gaps. The Census tracts were also adjusted in 2020 from the 2010 tracts, so the representation of percent change of individual tracts is based on tracts from 2010. This is particularly noticeable with the tract containing Banning Lewis Ranch. This tract saw some development in a small area in the northern section, but because of the reshaping of the tracts in 2020, it appears as if the entire tract experienced growth. In addition, the tract with Colorado Springs Airport is reporting data on the residents of Peterson Air Force Base that is within the tract boundary. Finally, the city's edges and county enclaves within the city limits often split Census tracts. Because of this, Census data was collected at the block level. However, American Community Survey data was limited to the geographies of the Census tracts alone, so the data reported from American Community Survey represents entire tracts on the periphery of the city and partially inside El Paso County enclaves and were all counted as tracts within the city and thus contains data on populations that live outside of the city boundaries.

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